

**Anastomosis instrument with detachable loading unit**

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**Abstract**

There is disclosed a surgical instrument (10) and loading unit (16) for performing an anastomosis of first and second blood vessels. The surgical instrument (10) includes a handle assembly (12) and a body portion (14) extending distally from the handle assembly. The detachable loading unit (16) includes an anvil (126) releasably engagable with a distal end of the body portion and having a plurality of fasteners (130) disposed in channels about the circumference of a distal end of the anvil. A pusher (128) is slidably mounted over the anvil such that distal movement of the pusher (128) in response to actuation of the handle assembly (12) cams the fasteners (130) between the anvil and a distal end of the pusher to simultaneously crimp the fasteners about tissue. In performing an anastomosis a first vessel is positioned in the loading unit and partially inserted through an opening in a second vessel. The surgical instrument (10) is subsequently attached to the loading unit (16) and the handle assembly (12) is actuated to crimp fasteners (130) about the first and second vessels to form an anastomosis. ■

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